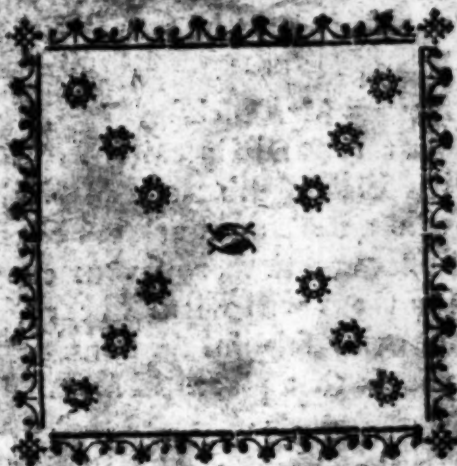


SATAN'S DELUSIONS.

A POEM

ON THE

BUCHANITES.



PRINTED FOR CHARLES STEWART.

MDCCLXXXIV.



SATAN'S DELUSIONS: &c

1 **T**HOU Irvine art an ancient Burgh
the seat of presbytery;
And many famous ministers
have occupied in thee.

2 For upwards of an hundred years,
thy privilege hath been
To have the best of ministers,
as history may be seen.

3 The famous Mr. Dickson,
Warner and Hatchison,
With Messrs Nisbet and M Night,
who all are dead and gone

4 The stones and timber of your church
for them will witness bear,
How many faithful sermons,
you in that place did hear.

5 For you they brake the bread of life,
prepar'd it for your mouth,
And painfully instructed you
in every gospel truth.

6 In doctrines sound and wholesome,
your souls by them were fed,
By streams of living waters,
and in green pastures led.

- 7 The streams of gospel ordinance
in thee were pure and sound:
No Buchanitish doctrine then,
in thee was to be found.
- 8 Against thy present ministers,
though no objection be;
Yet damnable delusions,
are springing up in thee.
- 9 A cursed woman Jessebel,
by Satan introduced;
Who by her corrupt doctrines,
hath some people seduced.
- 10 This wicked one from Glasgow came,
in April eighty-three,
She lodg'd her span among thy sand,
and now her fry we see.
- 11 Mr White beginning of her strength,
in order first appear'd;
Mistress Hunter second did come forth,
Mistress Gibson third I heard.
- 12 The rest came mostly in a breast,
as here you may them see,
Nath Peter Hunter, John Gibson,
and Thomas Neil all three.
- 13 James Garven, his wife and maid,
James Stewart and his wife now,
With Mistress Muir and Mistress White,
and Agnes Willie too.
- 14 There's William Lindsay and his wife,
John Henderson a wright,
Mary Francis and Kate Gardner,
Eliz Dunlop, these in sight.

- 15 The Buchanites of Irvine,
do now a party make;
Tis evident to every one,
how grossly they mistake.
- 16 By heark'ning to this Jesebel,
have caused much confusion,
While some of them appear to be,
given up to strong delusion.
- 17 Ill grounded in your principles,
you appear now to have been,
Since you for gospel mysteries have,
the deeps of Satan taen.
- 18 The doctrine of election that
God's spirit hath made known,
They say it cursed is, and why?
Mistress Buchan wont it own.
- 19 In various places of God's word,
this doctrine's clear and plain;
Therefore we hold it as God's truth,
deny it is of men.
- 20 They say the essence that's divine,
doth fill up all the place,
Of natural faculties of soul,
when it regenerate is.
- 21 Since in the word of God for this,
we no foundation find,
We'll mention yet a little more,
of Mistress Buchan's mind.
- 22 They say they're perfect free from sin,
as God can make them be,
Though scripture doth them contradict,
experience says they lie.

23 There's faults and failings in the best,
experience daily shows,

There's no perfection to be found,
in saints while here below.

24 The perseverance of the saints,
this doctrine we maintain,
They cannot sin to that degree,
as cut them short of heaven.

25 The gospel covenant as such,
from scripture we may see,
By failings on God's people's spirit,
it cannot broken be.

26 Yet if they break God's holy law,
and wander from his way,
He chastisements of various kinds,
upon them here may lay.

27 David himself if he were here,
could witness to this truth:
A bloody sword must not depart,
for ever from his house.

28 Psalm lxxxix if you'll consult,
there God himself doth say,
That if his children shall forsake,
his law and go astray.

29 If they his laws break and do not
keep his commandments,
He'll visit then their soul with rods,
their sins with chastisements.

30 This loving father doth correct :
a son whom yet he loves,
Such sanctified afflictions,
peace in the end will prove.

- 31 True they do say Old Testament saints,
they no perfection had,
The Holy Ghost dwelt not in them,
therefore they were so bad.
- 32 On this account none of them all,
did into heaven go,
But where they were till Christ arose,
they cannot to us show.
- 33 Yet Old Testament believers,
as scriptures do declare,
The temples of the Holy Ghost,
their bodies likewise dare
- 34 It likewise was their privilege,
as God's word may be seen;
Although their ransom was not paid,
their souls went straight to heaven.
- 35 The Surety-ship of God the Son,
the Father could not doubt;
He knew the son's ability,
to make the bargain out.
- 36 There is no man that sinneth not,
in gospel times that lives,
And if we say we have no sin,
we do ourselves deceive.
- 37 Do we not hear St. Paul cry out,
and that most vehemently,
O wretched man that now I am!
who shall deliver me?
- 38 But spirits of just men at death,
shall then made perfect be,
And over sin, and death, and hell,
obtain the victory.

- 39 Each power and faculty of soul,
shall then enlarged be,
To comprehend these mysteries,
at present dark must be.
- 40 Now Christ manifested in the flesh,
must Mistrefs Buchan be,
Which lately on her son Hugh White,
She devolved this dignity.
- 41 This great mistery of godliness
she makes them to believe,
And gars them true she hath a power,
the Holy Ghost to give.
- 42 The Holy Spirit who is stiled
the Spirit of all truth,
This wicked woman doth pretend
to blow him in their mouth.
- 43 The persons three in heaven that be,
and doth a witness bear,
They now deny and say no more,
but three names doth appear.
- 44 Yet they believe in Mr. White,
a trinity doth dwell ;
In all their fulness bodily,
one of themselves did tell.
- 45 These things they wickedly have said,
and God hath silent been ;
They think that he is like themselves,
and so approves their sin,
- 46 But he will sharply them reprove,
and he will order right,
Their sins and such transgressions,
in presence of their sight.

47 Consider this and be afraid,
you that forget the Lord ;
Lest he in pieces break you all,
when none can help afford.

48 There is some of this party now,
most wickedly do say,
That such as are regenerate,
have no need for to pray.

49 Prayer is an ordinance of God,
the scriptures do declare:
There God himself is often said,
to hear his people's prayer,

50 We poor dependent beings are,
he only knows our need ;
And through a mediator we,
the promises may plead.

51 Prayer is a duty God requires,
and is a noble mean,
Whereby the soul that pious is,
holds intercourse with heaven.

52 It being the desire of one,
to have a share in prayer,
Of one of this new party,
though they at distance were.

53 Replied it was, if you are not,
into our company,
This favour that you do request,
I must to you deny.

54 From this we see that Mr. White,
made God yet hath not been,
His people's prayer he cannot hear,
where distance is between.

- 55 So now it is idolatry,
as they it understand,
Our Jesus for to worship,
on high at God's right hand.
- 56 Then Steven must a fool have been,
an idol for to crave
His spirit to receive while he
was stepping in the grave.
- 57 This bible of the grace of God,
which never can be lost,
Was spoke by holy men of God,
mov'd by the Holy Ghost
- 58 But now to get this overturn'd,
this woman seems intent ;
Come by the will of man she found,
the Italian supplement.
- 59 But now she's come so far a length,
her converts to her yield,
That many of these precious truths,
are words of men and deils.
- 60 Now scripture's but a letter dead,
as such they do abus't ;
But she a living bible is,
and only to be us'd.
- 61 The word of God you do corrupt,
by this that you maintain,
The soul of man no more to be,
but nose, ears, mouth, and een.
- 62 At first they said the soul at death,
it in the air did fly ;
But now it with the body dies,
and in the grave must lie.

63 Yet some of this new party,
they prophets seem to be,
And prophecy that for themselves,
they never are to die.

64 O mind the prophecy put forth,
upon the third of May,
When all destroyed soon must be,
who from the ark would stay.

65 By a viol of the wrath of God,
which was to be pour'd forth,
About that time for to destroy,
an ancient royal burgh.

66 The faith of this it made them fly,
into the ark with speed;
But the next day the storm beat sore,
on Mistress Buchan's head.

67 When she obliged was by power,
to go and leave the town,
Her converts also went with her,
to travel up and down.

68 And now they passing pilgrims are,
for heaven they are bound,
Alas, alas! for they mistake,
the way they have not found.

69 Let all duly concerned be,
the way of truth to learn,
Since Satan 'mongst us now appears,
with a bible beneath his arm.

70 Ye ministers of Irvine,
I'm sure ye have great need,
To call upon your people,
the scriptures for to read,

- 71 God's worship in many families,
is shamefully neglected
Both error and delusion there,
may justly be suspected.
- 72 The scriptures are the rule by which,
we corrupt doctrine tried,
These books by many in our day,
are little occupied.
- 73 The reading of the scriptures,
we highly should esteem,
The plan of man's salvation,
these oracles contain.
- 74 If we deservers were to learn,
these divine mysteries
The reading of our bibles,
we daily would practise.
- 75 Gross ignorance is to be found,
in this reformed land;
Religion (its first principles),
some do not understand.
- 76 Satan by his subtilty,
may some poor soul abuse;
And make them think their ignorance,
the Lord will them excuse.
- 77 Because they little knowledge had,
they therefore do expect,
Though they did many things amiss,
few stripes they have to get.
- 78 We who the gospel do enjoy,
have no excuse to plead,
Our ignorance from spiritual sloth,
must certainly proceed.

79 About two hundred years ago,
we learn from history,
To read these sacred scriptures then,
there was not liberty.

80 This cursed piece of policy,
from Satan, priests did learn :
They knew the holy scriptures,
their doctrines did discern.

81 This woful cloak of patronage,
to many is a grief;
To ease them of that burden, some
build churches of relief.

82 A minister at Irvine,
they lately did ordain,
Who since his ordination,
gross errors doth maintain.

83 Deluded by a woman,
the truth for to declare,
Though at his ordination,
did the confessions swear.

84 This Mr. White your minister,
'tis strange for me to think,
That he a man of learning,
a woman should hoodwink.

85 Under infatuation,
this man appears to be,
Since he pretends to share with God,
in his omniscency.

86 Essential to the deity,
is this perfection,
And incommunicable it is,
to any mortal man.

- 87 A neighbouring minister we're told,
as he was passing by,
A proof of his omniscience,
he curious was to try.
- 88 By asking him a question,
he came to understand,
He was no more omniscient,
than any other man.
- 89 To vain imaginations,
this man is given up,
He now appears too deep to drink
of Mistress Buchan's cup.
- 90 You Buchanites of Irvine,
we plainly now may see,
Like men depriv'd of reason,
you now appear to be.
- 91 To leave the town of Irvine,
you had no lawful call,
To ruin your poor families,
by leaving house and all.
- 92 Your houses now are taken up,
your plenishing all gone,
What taunts and jeers may you expect,
at your returning home.
- 93 Poor Peter Hunter in a cart,
was fain to follow on,
Two constables of him took care,
and safely brought him home.
- 94 The counsel of his loving friends,
he nothing did regard,
His plenishing expos'd to sale,
likewise both house and yard;

- 95 Deluded by this woman,
this poor man seems to be,
Brought ruin on himself and wife,
and bairns to misery.
- 96 We Peter Hunter look'd upon,
as pious and devout;
The truth of his sincerity,
we have much cause to doubt,
- 97 At the Kilmarnock sacraments,
he did attend with care,
And always on the Friday nights,
he hither did repair.
- 98 These men in corrupt principles,
to such a height are gone,
That looseness and profanity,
must surely follow on.
- 99 For men to leave their business,
must a delusion be,
The scriptures strictly do require,
all lawful industry.
- 100 The words of the apostle,
I only shall recite,
That such as do refuse to work
they surely shall not eat.
- 101 We food and raiment must provide,
by using lawful means,
The Lord hath nowhere promised,
to rain it down from heaven,
- 102 The husbandman must till the ground,
with diligence and pains,
And patiently must wait upon,
early and latter rains.

- 103 The works of nature for man's use,
likewise employ'd must be,
To bring about their different ends,
they work harmoniously.
- 104 The sun for man his course must run,
the heavens give rain and dew,
While man is spending the old store,
the earth brings forth the new.
- 105 You Magistrates of Irvine,
appear to be but slack,
That did not take this woman up,
when first she turned back.
- 106 Such magistrates as God approves,
bear not the sword in vain,
All error and profanity,
they surely must restrain.
- 107 Gracious in God's matters,
if magistrates should prove,
Remember you must give account
to that great judge above.
- 108 If you would truly rule for God,
your study it must be,
To have God's law before your eyes,
in whatever you decree.
- 109 To be a faithful magistrate,
is a great dignity,
In scripture you are called Gods,
and sons of the most high.
- 110 All earthly judges at the best,
are but short sighted men,
In matters dark and intricate,
its hard for them to scan.

111 We have a sovereign judge above,
 from whose omniscient eye,
 No secret thing can be conceal'd,
 from his all seeing eye.

112 God is our king and sovereign Lord,
 our only legislator,
 We owe obedience unto him,
 as our almighty Creator.

113 Whose laws are holy just and good,
 and for their equity,
 Do far exceed all human laws,
 that ever yet could be.

114 May the Lord that Spirit soon rebuke,
 that it no further spread.
 And may the Spirit his own folk,
 into all truth them lead.

F I N I S.

